

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the present application.

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS:

- 1-48. (canceled).
49. (previously presented) A process for forming a coating on a substrate, including the steps of:
establishing a fluidised-bed of a powder coating composition, thereby effecting tribostatic charging of the powder coating composition, the fluidised-bed including a fluidising chamber at least a part of which is conductive, applying a voltage to the conductive part of the fluidising chamber, immersing a substrate which is either electrically non-conductive or poorly conductive wholly or partly in the fluidised bed, whereby tribostatically charged particles of the powder coating composition adhere to the substrate, the substrate being either electrically isolated or earthed, withdrawing the substrate from the fluidised-bed and forming the adherent particles into a continuous coating over at least part of the substrate, the process being conducted without ionisation or corona effects in the fluidised bed.
50. (previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 49 wherein the substrate comprises a medium density fibreboard (MDF).
51. (previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 49, wherein the substrate comprises wood.
52. (previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 49, wherein the substrate comprises a wood product.

53. (previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 49, wherein the substrate comprises a plastics material.
54. (previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 49, wherein the substrate comprises a plastics material including an electrically conductive additive.
55. (previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 54, wherein the plastics material comprises polyamide.
56. (currently amended) A process as claimed in claim 49, wherein the substrate comprises an ~~a~~ highly insulating plastics material.
57. (previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 56, wherein the plastics material comprises polycarbonate.
58. (previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 49, wherein the surface resistance of the substrate is of the order of at least 10^3 ohms/square.
59. (previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 49, wherein the surface resistance of the substrate is of the order of from 10^3 to 10^5 ohms/square.
60. (previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 49, wherein the surface resistance of the substrate is of the order of at least 10^5 ohms/square.
61. (previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 49, wherein the surface resistance of the substrate is of the order of from 10^5 to 10^{11} ohms/square.
62. (previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 49, wherein the surface resistance of the substrate is of the order of at least 10^{11} ohms/square.
63. (currently amended) A process as claimed in claim 53 49, including the step of heating the plastics material to a temperature below its melting point and below the transition point of the powder coating composition before immersing the substrate in the fluidised bed.

64. (previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 56, including the step of pre-charging the substrate before immersing it in the fluidised bed.
65. (previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 64, including the step of equalising the charge on the substrate before immersing the substrate in the fluidised bed.
66. (previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 65, including the step of heating the substrate to a temperature below its melting point in order to equalise the charge.
67. (previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 65, including the step of moistening the surface of the substrate in order to equalise the charge.
68. (previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 49, wherein there is no preheating of the substrate prior to immersion in the fluidised bed.
69. (currently amended) A process as claimed in claim 49, wherein a DC de voltage is applied.
70. (currently amended) A process as claimed in claim 69, wherein a positive DC de voltage is applied.
71. (currently amended) A process as claimed in claim 69, wherein a negative DC de voltage is applied.
72. (currently amended) A process as claimed in claim 49, wherein ~~such a~~ the voltage is applied such that the maximum potential gradient existing in the fluidised bed is 29 kV/cm, 27.5, 25, 20, 15, 10, 5, 1 or 0.05 kV/cm.
73. (currently amended) A process as claimed in claim 49, wherein ~~such a~~ the voltage is applied such that the potential gradient existing in the fluidised bed is at least 0.1 kV/cm ~~or at least 0.5 kV/cm~~.

74. (currently amended) A process as claimed in claim 49, wherein ~~such a~~ the voltage is applied such that the potential gradient existing in the fluidised bed is at least 0.1 kV/cm ~~or at least 0.5 kV/cm~~.
75. (previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 49, wherein a voltage in the range of from 10V to 100kV is applied.
76. (previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 75, wherein a voltage in the range of from 100 V to 60 kV is applied.
77. (previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 75, wherein a voltage in the range of from 100 V to 30 kV is applied.
78. (previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 75, wherein a voltage in the range of from 100 V to 10 kV is applied.
79. (previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 49, wherein a substrate comprising a non-metal is immersed.
80. (currently amended) A process as claimed in claim 49, wherein the substrate is immersed with the fluidising chamber in a charged condition for a period of up to 30 minutes, ~~20 minutes, 10 minutes, 5 minutes or 3 minutes~~.
81. (currently amended) A process as claimed in claim 49, wherein the substrate is immersed with the fluidising chamber in a charged condition for a period of at least 10 milliseconds, ~~500 milliseconds or 1 second~~.
82. (currently amended) A process as claimed in claim 49, wherein a coating of thickness of up to 500 microns, ~~or up to 200, 150, 100 or 80 microns~~ is applied.
83. (currently amended) A process as claimed in claim 49, wherein a coating of thickness of at least 5 microns, ~~or at least 10, 20, 50, 60 or 80 microns~~ is applied.

84. (currently amended) A process as claimed in claim 83, wherein a coating of thickness in the range of from 20 to 50 microns, ~~25 to 45 microns or 50 to 60 microns~~ is applied.
85. (previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 49, including shaking or vibrating the substrate to remove loose particles.
86. (previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 49, wherein the powder coating composition is a thermosetting system.
87. (currently amended) A process as claimed in claim 86, wherein the ~~film-forming polymer in the or each powder coating component of the powder coating composition~~ comprises a film-forming polymer ~~is one or more~~ selected from one or more of carboxy-functional polyester resins, hydroxy-functional polyester resins, epoxy resins and functional acrylic resins.
88. (previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 49, wherein the powder coating composition is a thermoplastic system.
89. (previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 49, wherein the powder coating composition incorporates, by post-blending, one or more fluidity-assisting additives.
90. (previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 89, wherein the powder coating composition incorporates a combination of alumina and aluminium hydroxide as a fluidity-assisting additive.
91. (previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 90, wherein the fluidity-assisting additive includes hydrophobic silica.
92. (previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 90, wherein the fluidity-assisting additive includes a PTFE modified wax.
93. (previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 49, wherein substantially all of the powder particles are no larger than 10 μm .

- 94. (canceled).
- 95. (previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 49, wherein the substrate is wholly immersed within the fluidised bed.
- 96. (canceled).
- 97. (new) A process as claimed in claim 54, including the step of heating the plastics material to a temperature below its melting point and below the transition point of the powder coating composition before immersing the substrate in the fluidised bed.